

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very concerned over Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. By forcing their stations to air the anti-Kerry piece, Sinclair is denying the American people our right to make informed and wise decisions affecting our democracy. Their actions are completely one-sided. Why are they not airing a program which is pro-Kerry such as 'Going Upriver' immediately before or after? It is imperative that we have a balanced and un-biased media, because we are a democracy. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions prove why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They demonstrate why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.

Karen Valdez